Air Hostesses in Air India

*611. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:

SHRI SHATRUGHANA SINHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two autonomous bodies working as Government of India Enterprises can make separate rules for their employees which deny the Citizens of India the Fundamental Right to Equality;

(b) if not, the reasons for the discrimination being made by Air India to its Air Hostesses by denying them equal status with their counterparts in Indian Airlines and even the male staff of Air India itself with regard to the flying worthiness; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to give them justice?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Both Air India and Indian Airlines are autonomous companies that are free to determine the service regulations of their employees in accordance with their commercial requirements. Broadly, Indian Airlines operates on domestic sectors and on some short haul international sectors, whereas Air India generally operates on the long-haul major international routes. The requirements of both the airlines are determined by the practices on their respective routes.

(b) There is no discrimination in the age of retirement of Air Hostesses of Air India and Indian Airlines. Both the Male and Female Cabin Crew of Air India retire at the age of 58 years. However, the functions & cadres of male and female cabin crew in Air India are different.

(c) Does not airse.

Financial assistance for construction of Resorts at Hampi

*612. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought financial assistance during 1999-2000 for the construction of Jungle Lodges and Resorts at Hampi (Kamalpur) in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance sought for;

(c) the number of rooms proposed to be constructed; and

(d) the action, if any taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) A proposal for Central financial assistance of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for Construction of Jungle Lodges Tourism Resort at Hampi was received from the Government of Karnataka during 1998-99. After obtaining necessary clarifications Central Financial assistance of Rs. 49.00 lakhs was sanctioned and Rs. 14.70 lakhs was released as first instalment during 1999-2000.

This project includes construction of 8 rooms, a restaurant and a conference hall.

Impact of promotion of hedonistic tourism

†*613. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to promotion of hedonistic tourism, the environment of various tourist spots in the country has been damaged and it has given rise to immoral misconduct; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent this tendency?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with State/UT Administrations promotes tourism to ensure hassle-free stay of tourists in the country, with due regard to conservation of culture, heritage and environment. Hedonistic tourism docs not figure in the list of facilities created for tourists, nor is it promoted.

Import duty on crude oil

*614. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present rate of cess per tonne on crude oil produced in the country;

(b) the present import duty on imported crude oil;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.